THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) to (c) Importers have not suffered any loss, rather gained because of the low cost of imports on account of rupee appreciation. Government announced a series of measures for exporters only for immediate relief from the impact of rupee appreciation. There is no proposal for any special package for NRIs, who may be importers of Indian goods.

Attack on Hindi Speaking People in Maharashtra

†*36. SHRI MANGANI LAL MANDAL: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Maharashtra Navnirman Sena (MNS) has issued a dictate to non-Maharashtrian people, particularly belonging to Bihar, Uttar Pradesh and other people, entrepreneurs and labourers of other Hindi speaking States asking them to leave Maharashtra;

(b) whether it is also a fact that non-Maharashtrian people were beaten in Mumbai, Kalyan, Thane and other cities from the first week of February, 2008, their shops were looted and they were dragged from trains, buses and taxis and insulted and beaten; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and Government's point of view in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) According to information received from the State Government of Maharashtra, no such dictate has been issued.

(b) and (c) According to available information, in the wake of efforts by some activists of the Maharashtra Navnirman Sena (MNS) to create disturbances in a political rally in Mumbai on 3rd February, 2008, a number of incidents of demonstrations, burning of effigies of political leaders, pelting of stones on/damage to buses and other vehicles, and damage to private and public properties took place in Mumbai and some other parts of Maharashtra during the first to third weeks of February, 2008. According to the State Government, there were 336 incidents during this period, of which there were 8 incidents of assault on North Indian labourers/workers and some cases of damage to property like shops, stalls, handcarts etc., in which 8—10 persons are reported to have been injured.

The Ministry of Home Affairs had remained in touch with the State Government and asked them to take all necessary measures to maintain peace and normalcy in the State and take firm action against elements indulging in any kind of violence or illegal activities. 13 Coys of additional Central Para-Military forces were also provided to the State Government. The State Government has informed that prompt and firm action was taken against the culprits, and 1575 persons were arrested for substantive offences in addition to preventive action against 5159 persons. Effective deployment of the Police and security arrangements have been made to prevent any untoward incident and build confidence and a sense of security among all sections of the people.

Research made by CSIR

*37. SHRI S. ANBALAGAN: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether country is lagging behind several countries in different fields of science and

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi

technologies such as nano-technology, bio-technology, plasma physics, robotics and laser physics;

(b) if so, the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) for research in the above fields and the amount spent in each of the above fields and achievements made during the each of the last three years by CSIR;

(c) whether the outcome of the research is not commensurate with the amount spent by it;

(d) if so, the steps contemplated in this regard; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) Several fields of science and technology areas have been covered. Our country is at par with leading countries in many and others we have put in place appropriate R&D programmes to catch up.

(b) CSIR in the Tenth Plan had initiated a number of research programmes in the area of biotechnology and few programmes in the area of Nanotechnology, Robotics, Plasma Physics and Laser Physics with an outlay of Rs. 277.06 crore. During the Eleventh Plan, CSIR has proposed a large number of R&D programmes in biotechnology and other fields of Science and Technology, where Rs. 783.89 crore is the proposed allocation under the above sectors.

CSIR has made numerous achievements under biotechnology during the last three years, major ones are listed below:

(i) A laboratory-scale process for the preparation of clot-specific streptokinase has been standardized and the technology has been licensed to US based company.

(ii) Developed and licensed the technology for recombinant Streptokinase.

(iii) Developed a cost effective and non-hazardous process for the estimation of creatinine.

(iv) Developed a mono-enzyme amperometric biosensor for the estimation of galactose in milk and milk products.

(v) Developed and standardized a non-conventional process for the cultivation of selected bacterial cultures by fermentation technology for their uses as Biocontrol and Biofertilizers.

(vi) Developed a predictive method for the detection of predisposition to high altitude pulmonary edema (HAPE).

(vii) Studies carried out on a large cross section of Indian population to understand their origin, evolution and migration.

(viii) Developed under the New Millennium Indian Technology Leadership Initiative (NMITLI) programme, 3 health care products viz. anti-psoriasis formulation, a new TB molecule and a bio-therapeutic anti-bacterial molecule, Lysostaphin.

(ix) Several world class softwares in the area of Bio-informatics viz. Bio-Suite, Geno Cluster, Bio-SuiteC and Darshee have been developed and are being marketed under NMITLI programme.

The achievements in the area of Robotics are:

(i) Developed indigenously intelligent prosthetic devices for rehabilitation of physically challenged like spoon feeding robot system, myoelectric arm and electronic voice operated hand.

(ii) Designed & developed an All Terrain Robot (ATR) working with the capabilities of climbing up staircases, crossing a ditch, moving of sloppy land, obstacle detection etc.

The Achievements in area of Nanotechnology are:

(i) Developed new nano-structured inorganic materials for various applications.

(ii) Developed for the first time synthetic and unique peptide—based nanotubes that have a wide range of futuristic applications which could be used for delivering DNA material for gene therapy and also making biochemical sensors.

The Achievements in area of Plasma Physics and Laser Physics are:

(i) Design and development of Plasma devices and Fibre Laser.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. The return on investment in R&D takes longer incubation time as the results are uncertain. It may lead to a successful technological outcome or may fail but add to knowledge generation. It is not like a production unit where any investment made provides immediate result or outcome like increase in quantity of products. Whatever achievements the country has made today is due to continuous investments made over several years. Therefore, Government is substantially increasing the investment in R&D and simultaneously offering number of incentives schemes like Tax benefits, custom and excise duty exemptions, etc. to industrial units for encouraging private R&D. As a result of this more & more Indian industries especially in the drugs & pharmaceuticals sector is making substantial investments in R&D.

(e) Does not arise.

Constitution of Police Accountability Commission

*38. SHRIMATI VIPLOVE THAKUR: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is considering a proposal to constitute a Police Accountability Commission in order to probe public complaints against the police for serious misconduct; and

(b) if so, the details in this regard and by when the Commission is likely to be constituted?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) There is no proposal at present before the Central Government to constitute a Police Accountability Commission.

(b) Does not arise in view of the above.